

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 EUR-12 A-01 OPR-01 PER-01

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R 131231Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3141

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SU, ET

SUBJECT: TRAVEL AMCITS THROUGH ETHIOPIA

REF: KHARTOUM 361

1. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE OVERLAND TRAVELLERS FROM SUDAN THROUGH ETHIOPIA. LAST MONTH, IN BLUE NILE AREA:

A. ONE GERMAN (MEMBER OF A 3 MAN RAFT TEAM) WAS SHOT DEAD BY TRIBESMEN AND HIS BODY SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN RECOVERED IN SPITE OF EFFORTS BY CID TEAM AND GERMAN EMBASSY.

B. TWO AMERICANS WHO WERE WALKING BLUE NILE GORGE AGAINST ADVICE OF EMBASSY ADDIS ARE NOW MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD.

C. U.K. CITIZEN IS HOSPITALIZED AFTER BEING SHOT 3 TIMES ON A BUS IN GONDAR PROVINCE.

2. ABOVE REPRESENTS ONLY THOSE CASES WHICH WE KNOW ABOUT. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE AND RE-EMPHASIZE FACT THAT AREA IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS DUE TO BANDITS, INSURGENTS WHO ARE BATTLING GOVERNMENT FORCES, AND AN INHERENT ANTI-FOREIGN ATTITUDE AS WELL AS NATURAL HAZARDS. CONS OFF SPOKE WITH SURVIVOR OF RAFT TEAM WHO

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SAW HIS COMPANION KILLED BY BANDITS. SURVIVOR, WHO WAS ON 3RD

NILE TRIP, WAS COMPLETELY SHATTERED BY THE EXPERIENCE WHICH HE LIKENED TO A NIGHTMARE.

3. AREA IS EXTREMELY ISOLATED AND LAW AND ORDER VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS ARE VERY SPARSE, AND ROADS OFTEN IMPASSABLE DURING RAINY SEASON. LOCAL CID OFFICER TOLD CONS OFF THAT BANDITS DO NOT HESITATE TO KILL FOREIGNERS SOMETIMES ONLY FOR THEIR CLOTHING BUT ALSO IF IT IS BELIEVED THEY HAVE ARMS, WHICH ARE HIGHLY PRIZED.

4. IF ABOVE DOES NOT DISCOURAGE NAIVE YOUNG TRAVELLERS, SUGGEST YOU TAKE NAME, PPT NBR., AND NOK AND ADVISE INDIVIDUALS TO NOTIFY FAMILY IN U.S. OF THEIR EXACT TRAVEL PLANS. ALSO MENTION THAT EMBASSY ADDIS HELPLESS TO CONDUCT SEARCH FOR MISSING PEOPLE IN VIRTUALLY INACCESSIBLE COUNTRY OR MAKE DISCREET INQUIRIES OF TRIBESMEN WHO CAN QUICKLY DISAPPEAR INTO HUNDREDS OF SQUARE MILES OF DESOLATE COUNTRY. NOR DO LOCAL INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITIES HAVE SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO DEVOTE TO THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY, AS GOVERNMENT HERE HAS MAJOR REBELLION IN THE NORTH.

WYMAN

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